

Castor oil, turpentine, and some mucilage; the thirst to be allayed by ice or iced water held in the mouth, but not swallowed.

For irritability of stomach, he directs from a quarter to half a drop of creasote, dissolved in ether or acetic acid, every hour.—combining it, when there is great excitement of the nervous system, with small doses of morphia. Iced water is to be kept constantly applied to the head, and the skin sponged with cold water when it becomes hot and dry. Sinapisms are directed to the spine to relieve the pain in the small of the back.

When, as it sometimes happens, after the lapse of twenty-four or forty-eight hours, or more, the skin becomes hot and dry, with violent pain in the small of the back and throbbing pain in the head, with disposition to coma, the author directs a repetition of the bleeding; and is satisfied in his own mind that he has saved life by so doing; although, he remarks, the necessity for a second bleeding does not arise in more than one case in two hundred, or at least in one hundred.

"When the above system of treatment is carried out, rigorously, the patient generally, on the fourth day, but at most universally on the fifth, is free from all fever, and has not a bad symptom left, and desires something to eat, and if he be moderately indulged with a little gruel of tapioca or some such innocent diet, sweetened, spiced, and seasoned with wine, he will improve very rapidly; at the same time, that is, from the fourth or fifth day, he should be allowed to drink weak brandy and water—this is one of the best stimulants that can be employed—but he should be stimulated gradually; and, from this time, no other medicine will be required than small doses of extract of colocynth or taraxacum and blue mass. Where the nervous system is much disturbed, small doses of strychnia can be added with advantage, followed occasionally by a Seidlitz powder, merely sufficient to correct the tendency to constipation, which exists for some time during recovery."

Dr. Hastings considers that no disease is more entirely under the control of medical treatment than yellow fever, nor is there any one more imperatively demanding it.

We have considered the above notice of the work before us due to its author. His opportunities for studying an important disease have certainly been sufficiently extensive, and his object in publishing the result of his observations, which are in the main interesting, has been evidently to instruct his fellow-practitioners. While, however, Dr. H. feels a firm conviction of the truth and correctness of the views he has advanced, we fear that his estimate of the facts that have fallen under his notice has been, occasionally, somewhat superficial and one-sided, and that his deductions cannot be received as invariably accurate; while, in more than one instance, the style in which his observations are communicated is liable to well-founded objections.

D. F. C.

- ART. XIV.—1. *Thirtieth Annual Report of the Physician and Superintendent of the McLean Asylum for the Insane.* Boston: 1848.
2. *Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Physician and Superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane.* Hartford: 1848.
3. *Thirty-first Annual Report of the State of the Asylum for the relief of Persons deprived of the use of their Reason.* Philadelphia: 1848.
4. *Twentieth Annual Report of the Physician and Superintendent of the Western Asylum.* Richmond, Va.: 1848.
5. *Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Kentucky Lunatic Asylum.* 1848.
6. *Reports of the Physician, and the Superintendent and Resident Physician of the Lunatic Asylum.* Columbia, South Carolina: 1847.

1. DR. BELL's report is unusually brief, being restricted to "a general view of the institution and its results for the year." He has confined himself to these narrow limits, for the purpose of giving room to the accompanying communication from a committee of the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, on the history and results of the administration of sulphuric ether as an anæsthetic agent.

The following are the statistics of the McLean Asylum for the year:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients at the beginning of the year - - -	88	85	173
" admitted during the year - - -	94	76	170
Whole number under care during the year - -	182	151	343
Discharged during the year - - -	89	81	170
Remaining at the end of the year - - -	93	80	173
Of the patients discharged, there were cured -	42	45	87
" " " " much improved -	4	5	9
" " " " improved -	9	7	16
" " " " unimproved -	15	6	21
" " " " died -	12	9	21

"The bill of mortality," says the report, "is unusually large. This is ascribable, in part, to the fact, that in the preceding year the number of deaths was only nine—less than half the ordinary average; throwing upon the then ensuing period quite a number of aged, feeble, and epileptic. The existence of a severe, intractable, epidemic dysentery, prevalent also through the county, occasioned us the loss of twelve patients, out of eighty in our household who were seized with the disease."

The large ratio of cures is attributed to a provision by which the Asylum is enabled to retain almost every case until a fair trial of restorative means was made. Could other institutions enjoy a similar advantage, the number of cures at many of them would be materially augmented.

Dr. Bell makes the following remarks upon the subject of new remedies. "It has been our aim to adopt any outlay for every real improvement which the experience of the world has offered in treating those disorders, one of the symptoms of which is alienation of mind. Aware, from frequent disappointment, that many of the novelties, moral and medical, which furnish a hope to the sanguine, and a newspaper paragraph to the curious, have but an ephemeral existence, we have each year found ourselves less hopeful as to new means of treating the insane, and have been gradually attaining the belief, that that institution which most closely pursued and thoroughly carried out the views presented a half century since by Pinel and Tuke would best fulfil its great end. The investigation of Moreau and others, into the properties and effects of the drug termed hachisch, in producing a continuous state of happy reverie, calculated to replace simple melancholy or functional nervous depression; and the recent discovery of the effects of those wonderful agents, the inhalation of the vapour of ether and chloroform, rekindle the hope that some forms of insanity may yet prove to be more immediately under the controul of direct medical means, than they have been found under the present advance of science."

2. From the report of Dr. Butler, of the Hartford Retreat, we glean the following items:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients at the beginning of the year - - -	56	62	118
" admitted during the year - - -	39	54	93
Whole number under care during the year - -	95	116	211
Discharged during the year - - -	36	53	89
Remaining at the end of the year - - -	59	63	122
Of the patients discharged, there were cured -	12	28	40
" " " " much improved -	5	5	10
" " " " improved -	8	6	14
" " " " unimproved -	7	6	13
" " " " died -	4	8	12

Causes of Death.—Epilepsy 1; exhaustion 3; apoplexy 1; consumption 1; old age 1; marasmus 1; paralysis 1; disease of brain 1; uterine disease 1; suicide 1. Since the opening of the Retreat, 1764 patients have been admitted, and 1642 discharged. Of the latter, there were recovered 942, improved 557, died 143.

The following remarks on some of the causes of insanity are worthy of notice: "Of the one hundred and eighty-seven female patients admitted during the past three years, 34 per cent. were the wives of farmers or mechanics. It must

be that this is an undue proportion of the comparative number of that class in the community. Many of these are young women, who leave nursing, or quite young children at home. The frequency of this occurrence, and its obvious causes, require more than a passing remark. A few brief suggestions may lead, hereafter, to a better understanding of these causes, and consequently to their avoidance. Many of this class present themselves at the institution; either in the high excitement of acute mania, or in the deep and oftentimes suicidal depression of melancholia; in all cases greatly exhausted, and most evidently worn down by hard work and anxiety, undue mental and physical effort, as classed in the table; though sometimes, other and more obvious causes (though less real), are received and recorded by us. In many cases, not having received in early life a judicious physical or moral training for her new and arduous station, the young wife, impelled by affection and an honest pride to her utmost efforts, soon finds that, with her increasing family, the burden of care and duties increases; while her physical strength and capacity of endurance diminish even in a greater ratio.

"An economy sometimes deemed necessary, now often ill-judged and cruel, leads the husband to refrain from supplying the necessary domestic assistance; the nurse is discharged too soon, and, sometimes, no suitable one is provided. In addition to their own proper household, an eagerness for gain leads him to take boarders from the operatives in the neighbouring factories, for whom the wife must cook and otherwise provide, and often the day proves too short for the accomplishment of the necessary duties, and her labours are protracted to a late hour of the night, and the broken slumbers of the remainder of its hours of rest give little refreshment.

"Thus, it must naturally follow, that, between childbearing, nursing, and the accumulation of household duties and drudgery, the poor, heart-broken, and disappointed wife loses in turn her appetite, her rest, and her strength; her nervous system is prostrated, and, sinking under her burden, she seeks refuge in a Lunatic Hospital. This process of inducing insanity, is by no means limited to the above mentioned classes; the same thing, differing more in degree than in manner, is too often seen elsewhere."

3. In the Asylum at Frankford, the number of patients at the beginning of the year, was

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted during the year	26	32	58
Whole number during the year	16	21	37
Discharged during the year	42	53	95
Remaining at the end of the year	-	-	40
Of the patients discharged, there were cured	-	-	55
" " " " much improved	-	-	24
" " " " improved	-	-	2
" " " " unimproved	-	-	3
" " " " died	-	-	8
			3

Causes of Death.—Inflammation of bowels, 1; apoplexy supervening upon the paralysis of the insane, 1; mortification following erysipelas, 1.

The method of endeavouring to manage the insane by equivocation, deception and falsehood is so general in the community, that the following judicious remarks cannot be too widely circulated.

"We think it necessary to call the attention of those who may have the care of the insane, to the great importance of observing towards them such a course of conduct, as will tend to inspire them with confidence—of treating them with kindness and candour, and especially of avoiding every attempt to impose upon them, by promises which are not meant to be fulfilled.

"There seems to be a fear prevalent with many, of speaking frankly to the insane on the subject of their disease, and great care is taken to avoid any reference to the subject. This, in many cases, induces a resort to equivocation, or to holding out to patients other motives or objects than the real ones, for the course which is deemed necessary to be pursued towards them. It is too often thought

to be not only justifiable, but advantageous to influence the insane in this way, though they nearly always have acuteness enough to discover the deception, and are far more apt to have their suspicions excited, and their fears increased, than to be benefited in any way by such treatment. When it becomes necessary to resort to restraint on their movements, or to a course of medical treatment to which they object, it is much better to inform them of their real condition, and of the necessity of submitting for a time to the judgment of others, rather than attempt to gain upon them by misrepresentations, or promises which are never intended to be fulfilled. It may be said, that the insane generally are not averse to placing confidence in those about them, and that it is not until they find that some advantage has been taken, or some deception practised upon them, that they become suspicious, and imbibe that dislike for their nearest friends, which is thought to be so common in their disease.

"These remarks apply especially in cases where it is contemplated to remove the insane from their homes, and to place them under treatment in an asylum or hospital.

"When this is decided on, they should always be informed of the determination; and, if they are capable of understanding them, the reasons which have induced their friends to come to that conclusion should be explained. When this is done in a proper manner, it is very seldom that they will not submit quietly to the wishes of their friends; and invariably such a course occasions much less trouble and anxiety than when a different one is pursued. The patient enters the institution in a much better condition, for the beneficial action of those means which are to restore health. In several instances which have come under our notice, the disease has been aggravated, and recovery manifestly retarded by the irritation and excitement that have been produced, in consequence of the want of that respect and regard for the feelings of the insane, which would dictate the plan of dealing with them which is here recommended."

4. In consequence of an act of the Legislature of Virginia, requiring the superintendents of Public Institutions in that State to prepare their annual reports up to the 30th of Sept., instead of to the close of the Calendar Year, the present report of Dr. Stribling, of the Western Asylum, embraces a period of but nine months, from the 1st of Jan. to the 30th of Sept. 1847.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients on the 1st of January - - - -	123	94	217
Admitted during the nine months - - -	19	20	39
Whole number under care - - - -	142	114	256
Discharged during the nine months - - -			49
Remaining Sept. 30th - - - -			207
Of those discharged, there were cured - -			23
" " " much improved - - -			2
" " " improved - - -			3
" " " unimproved - - -			2
" " eloped - - - -			1
" " died - - - -			18

Causes of Death.—Marasmus, 4; epilepsy, 3; pulmonary disease, 3; inflammation of brain, 1; congestion of brain, 1; dysentery, 1; typhoid fever, 1; hydrothorax, 1; chronic diarrhoea, 1; causes unascertained, 2.

"Within the last few months," says the report, "an all-wise Providence has seen fit to afflict us with a typhoid fever, which, confining itself to no grade, sex or color, prostrated upon a bed of languishing, many of our officers, attendants, patients, and servants. The whole number thus attacked was about thirty. The disease seemed not malignant, nor were its symptoms unusually violent; but it was remarkable for the tenacity with which it clung to its subjects. Few became convalescent until they had lingered four or five weeks, and some scarcely commenced improving until after the seventh or eighth week of their illness. Only two deaths occurred, one of them a female patient, the other a servant.

Notwithstanding the large additions which have been made to this institution within a few years, all its apartments are now continually occupied, and during the nine months embraced by the report, eighty-four applicants were refused for want

of room. Dr. Stribling therefore recommends that further accommodations for the Insane of the Commonwealth be provided.

5. By the report of Dr. Allen, of the Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, it appears that the number of patients in that institution, at the beginning of the year, was

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Admitted during the year - - - - -	129	96	225
Whole number - - - - -	54	32	86
Discharged during the year - - - - -	183	128	311
Remaining at the end of the year - - - - -			64
Of the patients discharged, there were cured - - - - -			247
“ “ “ “ “ removed” - - - - -			29
“ “ “ eloped - - - - -			10
“ “ “ died - - - - -			2
			23

The people of Kentucky never have been, and appear still not to be aware of the importance of treating insanity in its early stages, and Dr. Allen devotes a considerable portion of this report, as he has of those which preceded it, in pourtraying the advantages of bringing patients to the asylum soon after the commencement of their disease. Of the eighty-six patients received during the past year, only ten were recent cases.

A large addition to the buildings of the institution is now nearly complete. In its construction much labour by the inmates of the asylum was expended, and that part of the report relating to this subject is fraught with such interest, that we extract it.

“The entire year has been one of almost unremitting toil to officers and attendants, and of much labour to patients. An amount of labour has been performed, I think I may justly say, which has nowhere else been equalled by lunatic hands.

“Those hands that have been employed about the improvements in progress, have worked steadily and willingly, and, I may add, with benefit to themselves, and advantage to the hospital.

“I cannot stop to specify what has been accomplished, but merely mention a few of the more important jobs that have been performed by them.

“The whole of the stone in the foundation of the new building has been quarried and hauled; and the brick laid in its walls, (about 1,100,000,) with the exception of moulding, were made and carried to the scaffolds, the mortar mixed and borne by lunatics. The foundation, 112 feet long, by 64 feet wide, and 10 feet deep, was dug; also, drains traversing every department of it, uniting in a common one leading thence to a cave below the spring, a distance of 800 feet, 8 feet wide by 10 feet deep, and stone gotten and placed at hand to build, throughout these drains, a sewer, with 18 inch side walls, with a covering of large flag stones, amounting to about — cubic feet of digging, and 300 perches of stone work.

“Such are the achievements obtained by encouraging the insane to moderate labour.

“In addition to all this, the ordinary labours have been performed, such as gardening, farming, &c., from all of which, abundant crops have been obtained.”

6. Two reports emanate from the medical department of the Lunatic Asylum, South Carolina—one by Dr. Trezevant the attending physician, the other by Dr. Parker, the superintendent and resident physician. The statistics for the year, according to Dr. Parker, are as follows:

Patients at the commencement of the year - - - - -	70
“ admitted during the year - - - - -	33
Whole number under care - - - - -	103
Discharged during the year - - - - -	29
Remaining at the end of the year - - - - -	74
Of the patients discharged there were cured - - - - -	17
“ “ “ “ “ removed under improvement” - - - - -	5
“ “ “ eloped - - - - -	1
“ “ “ died - - - - -	6

Dr. Trezevant's report includes under the head of cures, the five patients here stated to have been "removed under improvement."

The reports include an elaborate consideration of the various means of moral treatment. Dr. T. proposes, as a new method of diversion and exercise, a machine of his own invention. As it is a novelty, we quote his remarks upon it. "I am, moreover, impressed with the belief, that if one was erected, that our now workers could be urged into action, by the spirit of fun and frolic. Many are willing to play off a practical joke, and take great pleasure in inducing them to enter into what they would call sport. The action would commence in play, but they would be compelled to go on with it, if the excitement of their feelings would not induce them to continue, and the workers would become partakers of the pleasure of the ride, and exhilarating effects of rapid movement in the open air; but, should they determine not to move, and positively refuse to work, still the very effort which they make to sustain their determination, calls the brain into action, and produces a new train of thoughts and feelings; and if they decline motion, they must hold by their hands, and use much muscular exertion, and my object will be in some measure accomplished in spite of themselves. So that whether they act in accordance to my wishes or their own will, the much desired objects will be effected. The mode proposed would be wheels connected together by an endless band, and so arranged as to act on a large horizontal wheel, on which seats could be placed similar to the flying horse. This would be exercise and amusement to all parties, and might be made to answer the purpose of a rotary chair, and by the different positions to and from the centre, excite or diminish the activity of the brain; it can be made to answer the purpose of a circular swing, and, by the centrifugal force, rouse the brain to any extent, and with the centripetal motion depress it. The force required to effect this, I will make by an endless band, on which one or more patients shall walk, and arrange it, so that no possible injury can occur; and they shall not be exercised beyond their powers, but sufficiently to make them more healthy, and cheer their minds by seeing the effect of their apparent mischief on those revolving about them. I cannot but believe, that an instrument of this kind will be beneficial to all parties, and may, with a little ingenuity, be adapted to many useful purposes."

P. E.

ART. XV.—*Practical Observations on Certain Diseases of the Chest, and on the Principles of Auscultation.* By PEYTON BLAKISTON, M. D., F. R. S.; Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians; Physician of the Birmingham General Hospital, and formerly Fellow of Emanuel College, Cambridge. 8vo. pp. 384. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard.

THE importance of auscultation as a means of diagnosis in the diseases of the chest being now almost universally recognized, no physician can be considered excusable who has not made himself acquainted with its principles and practice. With the consideration of auscultation, therefore, the present work commences; nearly one-fourth of its pages being devoted to this subject. The great object of the author has been to develop the principles of auscultation in as elementary a manner as possible; and, so far as mere description can do, he has succeeded in rendering the auscultatory sounds and indications plain and intelligible. In order to assist the novice and to prevent repetition in referring to the laws of sound, a short summary of such of its properties as are applicable to auscultation of the chest, has been prefixed to the chapters on the latter subject. The student will find the portion of the present work devoted to the principles of auscultation, a very useful manual in his investigation of this essential means of diagnosis at the bed side, where alone any certain and accurate knowledge of it can be acquired.

The pathological and therapeutical observations of Dr. Blakiston in reference to some of the leading diseases of the thoracic organs, are, we are assured, the faithful report of facts observed in private and hospital practice. In almost every one of the one hundred and twenty-two cases, the details of which are introduced in the volume, the symptoms during life were witnessed and noted down by the